

British Empire in Europe

I. To-day & Yesterday in the Channel Islands

By Edith F. Carey

Author of "The Channel Islands"

In this series of four articles are described the life and history of the peoples of the minor European possessions lying outside Great Britain: the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus. Descriptions of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be found under these respective headings

TWO utterly different currents of life prevail in the Channel Islands at the present day. One, the holiday existence led by the idler and the tourist; the other, the daily routine of the native. Underneath, is an under-current of the old passionate pagan existence; in the neighbourhood of the so-called "Druids' altars" comes the feeling of trespass where the old gods still claim homage.

Of the rude stone monuments of the Neolithic men who roamed the forests by which the islands were once surrounded, many have now been destroyed; but there are records of fifty in Jersey, and, until comparatively recent times, Guernsey had no fewer than sixty-two dolmens and thirty-three menhirs; while Alderney, Sark, and Herm were equally rich in them.

The forests, long since submerged, had been the connecting links of an Armorican peninsula with the mainland, but the difference between the configuration of that day and the present is shown

by the raised beach at South Hill, Jersey, which is no less than 140 feet above sea level. While part of the Roman Empire, the islands were said to have been named Caesarea or Augia for Jersey, Sarnia for Guernsey, and Riduna for Alderney. In Cyprus a tablet was recently discovered dated A.D. 71, commemorating the donation of the citizenship of Rome to Basiel, son of

Turbel, of Gallinaria, Sarniensis, for his good service in the fleet of the Emperor Vespasian. This "unknown warrior" would have been one of the aboriginal Celts whose descendants were, in the fourth and fifth centuries A.D., overwhelmed by a people who, though they eventually adopted the French tongue, did not become a part of the French State. That people, Normans of Scandinavian descent, brought England by force of arms under their own dukes. In continental Normandy, language and geography made them Frenchmen; in the islands, political traditions and inherent loyalty



GUERNSEY MILKMAID

The milk-can is peculiar to these islands. In miniature form, daintily fashioned in silver, visitors may purchase a similar article—as a "porte-bonheur," or mascot

Photo, Mrs. F. Clarke

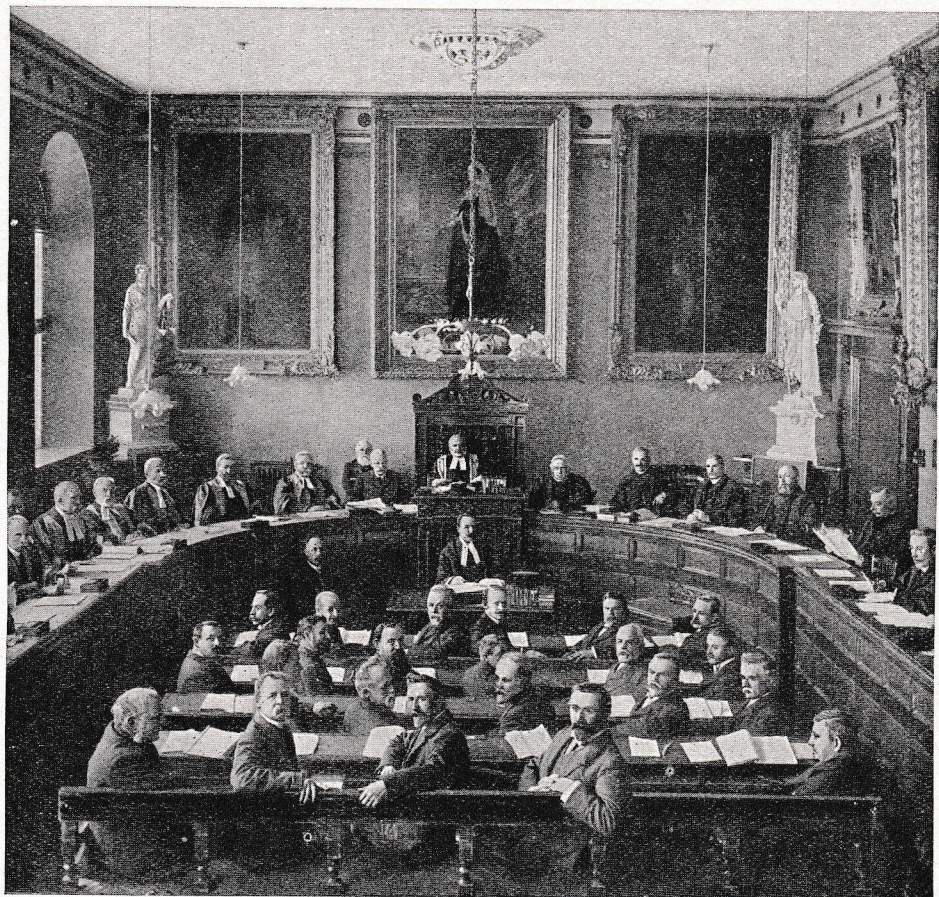
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prevailed against language and geography. Therefore the Channel Islander never became a Frenchman, though neither did he become an Englishman, but he alone remained Norman, keeping his own language, his own customs, and his own laws, independent of the English Parliament, but attached to the English Crown.

The islands' annals are full of bitter warfare and invasions by the French and of the islanders' defence of their liberties against the encroachments of oversea representatives of the Crown. The spirit displayed was always the same—unswerving loyalty towards the

King, combined with no less uncompromising defiance of external foes and internal oppressors. Paradoxically they remained ecclesiastically part of the French diocese of Coutances. The conflicting interests which ensued were such that an understanding, confirmed by Pope Sixtus IV. in a bull dated March 1483-4, that the islands should be considered neutral ground, was arrived at between the English and French Kings, and this decree remained in force until the seventeenth century, when it was abolished by the islanders themselves.

The menace of France removed, the islanders extended their foreign trade. In



STATES OF GUERNSEY IN SESSION UNDER ISLAND LAWS

The administration of the Channel Islands is carried on according to their own laws and customs, and comprises two divisions called bailiwicks—Jersey by itself, and Guernsey with the other main islands. In each bailiwick there are two assemblies, one known as the States, and the other the Royal Court. The former is the administrative body, and consists chiefly of the bailiff, the jurats or magistrates, and the rectors

Photo, Norman Grut



FRILLS AND FLOUNCES OF OLD GUERNSEY FASHION

Ladies of a past generation, with their fans and mittens, poke-bonnets, and silken scarves, they make a picturesque group in this tranquil, ivy-walled garden. And there are other "Voices of the Past" of which Guernsey may be justly proud. Tangible reminders of Stone and Bronze Age cults are everywhere in evidence, and sacred stones, wells, trees, and hills abound in this island charged with so many mysterious potencies

Photo, Norman Grut

small home-built ships they explored uncharted, unlit seas, regardless of danger. Only comparatively recently has the codfish trade with Newfoundland—of which they were the pioneers—and the shipbuilding therewith connected, been discontinued, owing to the inability of the small capitalist to tide over the transition from sail to steam.

As the islands are neither a colony nor a conquest, their Constitutions are peculiar to themselves. The charge of the military forces is in the hands of the lieutenant-governors of Jersey and Guernsey respectively, but the care of justice and civil affairs is in those of the Bailiffs of the two larger islands, and although the Judge of Alderney and the Seigneur of Sark have jurisdiction in minor matters, all serious cases have to be referred to the Guernsey Royal Court.

In both islands both judicial and legislative powers rest with the States, consisting of the bailiff, the jurats, the rectors, and the deputies, or representatives of the people. The Crown appoints its own officials—the procureur, the contrôleur, the receveur

"du Roi," and the vicomte in Jersey, although, curiously enough, not the prévôt in Guernsey. In civil cases and in legislative matters alike the last word lies with the Privy Council.

French is still the official language, and in the country parishes a dialect of the Langue d'oïl—the Romance tongue of the Trouvères—is still spoken. Although British money is in everyday use, yet in Guernsey the official coinage—although it has long ceased to circulate—is the Livre Tournais, in spite of the fact that it was obsolete, even in the town of Tours, centuries ago.

The Clameur de Haro, which was abolished in Normandy as long ago as 1583, can still be resorted to by any Channel Islander who thinks his property is being encroached upon, or his rights infringed, by the action of another. In the presence of two witnesses he kneels upon the ground and cries: "Haro, Haro, à l'aide, mon Prince! On me fait tort!" and he then repeats the Lord's Prayer in French. On this being done, all proceedings must be stayed until the case is tried before the Royal Court. It has been supposed to be an



HARVESTING THE REFUSE CROPS OF THE SEA



COLLECTORS OF SEAWRACK ON JERSEY COAST

Seaweeds abound in the warm waters round the Channel Islands. The larger varieties were formerly used in the manufacture of kelp, and are still employed as manure. The incoming tide never fails to bring in its store of detached "vraic," which is eagerly raked together and carted away by the industrious Jersey folk, who have proved this waste seagrowth to be a most valuable fertiliser

Photos, Albert Smith

appeal to Rollo, Normandy's first duke, but it is now considered to be a survival of an even older custom which prevailed on the coasts before the invasion of Rollo and his Northmen.

Feudalism, though in a modified form, is another survival of medieval days. During the Royal visit of July, 1921, the lords of manors held "in capite" knelt before King George—"le Roi, nôtre Duc"—with their hands in

his, and did homage for their fiefs, saying: "Sire, je suis vôtre homme, à vous porter foi et hommage contre tous"; and feudal dues, such as mallards and spurs, were paid in 1921 as punctiliously as those owed by the original seigneurs to the dukes of Normandy or to the Plantagenets.

And not only was his Majesty received in either island by his two "hereditary cup-bearers"—the Seigneurs of Rosel

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and of Sausmarez—but by the “receivers” of his feudal rents, for he himself is an Island Seigneur and Lord of the “Fief le Roi.” In Jersey the smaller feudal courts have been abolished, but in Guernsey they still sit, and their officers—seneschal, greffier, and vavasseurs—still swear with uplifted hand to be faithful vassals to their liege lord.

Yet these survivals of the romantic days of chivalry do not interfere with the keen business instinct of the Channel Islander. Jersey's forty-five square miles of territory are cultivated to the utmost. In 1920 its exports were of a declared value of £2,153,956, consisting principally of over 61,000 tons of potatoes, 10,000 tons of tomatoes, and 1,170 head of cattle. During the war exiled Jerseymen sang a parody of “Tipperary” emphasizing their desire to go back to “*nôtre petit Jerri, et nos pommes-de-terre*,” and it is not surprising that such a beautiful island inspires the passionate devotion of its inhabitants.

Although St. Helier has been so modernised as to be spoilt, St. Aubin, the old capital, is wonderfully picturesque, nestling on the side of a hill, and overlooking miles of glistening sand and turquoise sea. Wooded, flower-laden valleys are surmounted by old manor houses, picturesque farms, gorse-scented cliffs, above all by the magnificent medieval fortress of Mont Orgueil.

A mild climate and no income tax—is it wonderful that harassed Englishmen have flocked over to buy up every available property? But the visitor cannot fail to be struck by the keenness and determination of the Jerseyman to maintain the traditions and the

individuality of his native island, and his patriotism is fostered by the splendid work of the Société Jersiaise, to which almost every resident belongs.

No one who has entered Guernsey harbour on a summer morning can forget the panorama, set in a sea of shimmering blue, of Sark, Herm, and Jethou, “poised wraith-like on the opalescent dusk,” with grim old Castle Cornet standing out against the slope on which the town of St. Peter Port is built. Tiers of red-roofed houses—from whose midst rise the spires of Elizabeth College and St. Joseph's Church—cluster down to the water's edge; long rows of carts heaped with produce are being unloaded by black revolving cranes; on the shining level of the harbour itself a fleet of white motor-boats, yachts, and



ONE OF GUERNSEY'S BEST

He is characteristic of the fine race of fishertolk who inhabit the small villages on the Guernsey coast. Hale and hearty, despite his three score years and ten, he still pursues his arduous occupation with surprising vigour

Photo, Norman Grut



HOW THE POTATO IS CULTIVATED IN JERSEY

During the latter years of the nineteenth century, which were marked by peace and prosperity for all the Channel Islands, potato farming brought great wealth to the inhabitants of Jersey, and the cultivation of the potato is still continued on the island with all its former vigour. Ploughing usually takes place in December with a special two-bladed plough, a team of six horses being in general use



GREAT CARE IS EXERCISED IN PLANTING EACH POTATO

The lands of Jersey have always been owned by a race of peasant proprietors, and everywhere it is obvious that the country has been tended for its own sake by men who loved it and not by hirelings. The potatoes are carefully planted by hand, a small quantity of fertiliser added, and then covered with the earth turned from the next furrow made by a one-horse plough

Photo, E. F. Guillon



HUMAN TEAM OF SONS OF THE SOIL: JERSEY

They pick their way with care among the long rows of young potato plants, pulling along in their train a small V-shaped plough or hoe, which banks up the earth above the roots. They willingly take the place of the plough horse, and perform this long and tiring task themselves in order to safeguard the crop from any possible injury



POTATOES PACKED AND LABELLED FOR EXPORT TO ENGLAND

The most strenuous task has been accomplished, the potato crops have been harvested and sorted, and now, packed securely in these export barrels, each holding about one hundredweight, are stacked on the wharf in readiness for loading on the cargo vessels. The majority of new potatoes, so thoroughly appreciated in early spring, are due to the care and diligence of the Jersey landsman

Photos, E. F. Guillon



JERSEY MEN AND MAIDENS GATHERING THE EARLY TOMATO CROP

A very large portion of land in Jersey is given over to market-gardening, and many exotic flowers and fruit thrive in abundance in the soft, warm air of this beautiful island. In the valleys and on the hillsides the tomato is extensively cultivated, and ripens easily here as in France. In 1920 no fewer than 10,000 tons of this luscious fruit were exported from Jersey

Photo, Albert Smith



WHERE THE MOST POPULAR OF AUTUMN FLOWERS IS NURTURED

One glimpse of a Jersey chrysanthemum field will testify to the never-failing devotion of the landowners to their small holdings, every foot of which is carefully and intelligently cultivated. As in spring, so in autumn, the first-fruits of the flower-harvests reach English shores long before similar flowers have deigned to show themselves in the wayward English climate

Photo, Norman Grut



IN HOUSES OF CRYSTAL STATELY LILIES THRIVE

Within the glasshouses a sea of flowering plants spreads away into the distance, and the air is laden with the strong, sweet perfume of the Arum lily. From out the dark green foliage it rises in solitary grandeur; the perfectly moulded chalice-flower breathing out such purity and majestic simplicity that one falls awondering whether there could be another flower arrayed with the glory of one of these



ENGLAND'S FIRST SPRING FLOWER IS BORN IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS
Guernsey is well termed an island of glasshouses; on its twenty-four square miles of territory it possesses no fewer than 150 miles of greenhouses. Covent Garden does well to order immensurable quantities of this sweet-scented personification of spring, for who does not rejoice in the reappearance of the narcissus, the loveliest of lovely spring flowers?

Photos, Norman Grut

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THE CHARM OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Tradition is bound up in the lives of the older inhabitants, and this venerable Guernseyman could relate stirring tales of witches, devil-worshippers, and sorcerers—nebulous shapes of bygone days that still linger in the dim recesses of his memory

Photo, Alfred Dobrée

trading vessels swing at anchor. Over two and a half million baskets of tomatoes alone are annually dispatched to England, and there are over 150 miles of greenhouses on Guernsey's twenty-four square miles of territory, while from the little trading port of St. Sampson's her very entrails, in the shape of granite, are being shipped away, having been torn from quarries sometimes hundreds of feet deep. These industries have ruined the beauty and sadly encroached upon the agricultural area of the island. The "grande charrue," or big plough, where the neighbours—a

survival of the old communal system—contributed cattle as well as manual labour, has almost disappeared; although another immemorial custom regulated by law—that of gathering vrac or seaweed to fertilize the land—still prevails in all the islands.

Alderney, wild and desolate, with its grass-grown streets, its abandoned breakwater, its wind-swept coasts, has always been the Cinderella of the Channel Islands. Neither cultivated nor built over as are the larger islands, nature, with a fierce savage beauty and a brilliancy of colouring she seems to have reserved for the Channel Islands alone, still holds sway here, and all Alderney's traditions are connected with storms and elemental forces. Unfortunately, she has had the misfortune to drift into the hands of the Office of Woods. It has starved the island of education, of drainage, of every form of public improvement, although, as an "absentee landlord," it collects large royalties

from the quarries, from the harbour, and from the pier.

Sark is an epitome of the beauty of all the islands: a verdant plateau, sloping into wooded valleys carpeted with wild flowers, and ending abruptly on rocky precipices golden with gorse, and fringed with ferns and heather, while at the foot of these cliffs are mysterious caves, filled with sea-anemones and swept by a jewel-like sea of turquoise, emerald, or lapis-lazuli. Colonised from Jersey in the sixteenth century, Queen Elizabeth created it as a special fief, and granted it to Helier de



"IT'S DABBLING IN THE DEW MAKES THE MILKMAIDS FAIR"

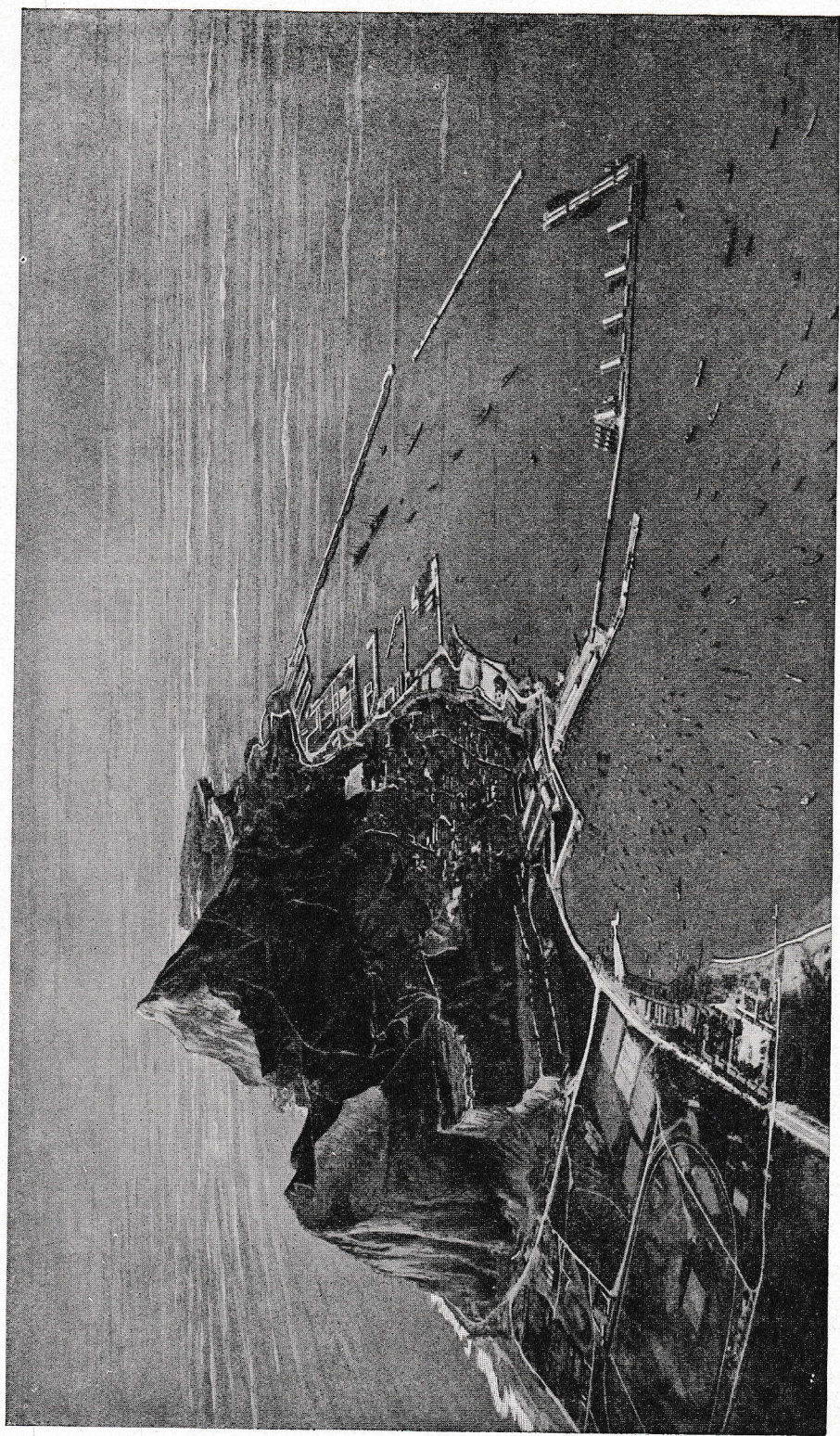
Victor Hugo, who lived for some time in the Channel Islands during his exile, described them as "Bits of France fallen into the sea and picked up by England." But the thoroughbred Channel Islander is neither French nor English, and typical English country maids as these two appear to be, could we hear their conversation, we should recognise the unmistakable "patois" of the Jersey peasantry



THE MILKING HOUR IN A JERSEY VALLEY

The breeds of horned cattle peculiar to Jersey, Guernsey, and Alderney—for each of these islands has its own variety, which is carefully kept from all intermixture—have been so increased and improved that they are in demand everywhere and are exported to the ends of the earth. The dairymen take great pride in these small, gentle animals with their glossy coats and soft, velvety eyes

Photos, Albert Smith



THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR: A BRITISH COLONY DISCLOSED BY THE CAMERA COMPLETE IN A SINGLE PICTURE

Viewed thus from an aeroplane, looking southwards from the British lines, the racecourse is in the foreground, the Rock rising sheer beyond, with the Moorish castle on the right. Beyond again, with the Signal Station in between, O'Hara's Tower rises in a peak, with Windmill Hill, the flats, and Europa Point at the extreme south. The fine harbour is on the right, the Atlantic shore; on the left the Rock presents an inaccessible front to the Mediterranean

Carteret, Seigneur of St. Ouen. To this day the seigneur enjoys unusual privileges and administers justice in the parish school, assisted by his seneschal and his "tenants"—farmers and fishermen.

Herm, with its satellite Jethou, is famous for its shell-beach, the luxuriance of its wild flowers, the beauty of its outlook, the wonder of its air.

The islands are a small group and are closely allied, yet each has produced a distinct type. But soon inter-marriage with the outer world and alien immigration will do away with the purity of the race, and Channel Islanders will be Jerseymen and Guernseymen in name only, and not, as hitherto, a race apart.

II. Gibraltar: The Western Gate of Empire

By Major C. W. J. Orr, C.M.G.

Colonial Secretary, Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR is a rocky promontory jutting out from the coast of Spain at its most southerly point, and commanding the entrance to the Mediterranean. The Rock rises sheer from the water, and is connected with Spain by a narrow sandy isthmus. The highest point is 1,396 feet above sea-level, the eastern and northern faces forming inaccessible precipices; the town lies on the western side overlooking the bay of Gibraltar.

Gibraltar, known in ancient times as Mons Calpe, is one of the famous Pillars of Hercules, the other being Mount Abyla, or Apes' Hill, on the opposite coast of Africa, the breadth of the Straits at this point being only nine miles. It was known to, and held by, Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, and Visigoths in turn, but remained uninhabited till the Mahomedan invasion of Spain in the eighth century A.D. The first landing-place of the Mahomedan invaders of Spain, it is also the point from which the last remnant of a once glorious empire retired, when the Moors were driven back to Africa in 1610.

Moorish Cuckoos in Gothic Nests

In the time of the Carthaginians Gibraltar was used as a watch-tower from which the Roman galleys might be observed, but the elder Scipio wrested it from them, and it was held by the Romans until the fifth century A.D. It then fell into the hands of the Goths, who built on it a chapel, to which pilgrimages of penance were made from

the neighbouring districts. In A.D. 710, when the Gothic kingdom in Spain was distracted by intestine quarrels, the Governor of Ceuta called in the aid of the Saracen Governor of the Western Provinces. In response to this appeal the Moorish chief, Tarik-Ibn-Zeyad, was dispatched from Tangier and landed at Algeciras with 12,000 men early in A.D. 711 and entrenched himself there; he then sent a detachment across the bay with orders to erect a castle on the rock of Calpe.

When the Rock was First Fortified

The present Moorish castle is what remains of this tower, and the name of Gibraltar, a corruption of Gebel-Tarik, or Mountain of Tarik, recalls the name of the general who first fortified the rock. From this position of advantage the Moors proceeded to overrun the neighbouring district, and finally met and defeated the Gothic army under Roderick, King of the Visigoths, and took possession of his kingdom.

Gibraltar henceforth became a stronghold of importance, the primitive defences constructed by Tarik being greatly strengthened in 1161 by Abd-el-Mumin, caliph of the Almohades. In 1309 the Rock was for the first time subjected to a regular siege, and was captured in the reign of Ferdinand IV. of Spain by Alonzo de Guzman, but was recaptured by the Moors in 1333 after a gallant defence of four and a half months. During the next 150 years Gibraltar was besieged several times, and in 1462

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it was once more captured by the Spaniards, and was for some years in the possession of the family of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, but was subsequently annexed to the Crown of Spain. An abortive attempt in 1504 by the then Duke of Medina Sidonia to regain possession of Gibraltar entailed a further siege, the loyalty of the inhabitants to the Crown earning for them the distinction, bestowed on them by the Queen of Spain, of the title "Most loyal." At the same time a coat-of-arms was granted to the city, consisting of a castle with a golden key pendant, with the following inscription: "Seal of the Noble City of Gibraltar, the Key of Spain."

Britain Takes the Key of Spain

Gibraltar remained in Spanish hands until 1704, when it was captured after a siege of three days by a British squadron under command of Sir George Rooke. From that date the British flag has flown over the fortress, which was formally ceded to England by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, renewed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. It has, however, been subjected to attacks from Spain on many occasions, the most celebrated being the famous siege lasting from 1779 to 1783, known in the history of Gibraltar as "The Great Siege." The fortress was defended by General Eliott, who was Governor at the time and who was afterwards raised to the peerage as Baron Heathfield.

Wonders of the Great Siege

On November 27th, 1781, in a great sortie made by night, the enemy's parapets were levelled to the ground, magazines exploded, gabions and platforms fired, and cannon and mortars spiked. In April of the following year the combined fleets of France and Spain arrived in the Bay and a terrific bombardment took place both from sea and land, but the attack failed. Finally, peace was concluded between France, Spain, and England, Gibraltar remaining in British hands.

On the capture of Gibraltar by the British in 1704, the Spanish inhabitants moved with their families to the neigh-

bouring Spanish towns, particularly to San Roque, a small town a few miles to the north of the Rock. Settlers were brought from Italy to carry on the trade and business of the fortress, and the little fishing village of Catalan Bay, which lies on the eastern side of the Rock, is inhabited by the descendants of Genoese fishermen who settled there after the British occupation. The present inhabitants of the town of Gibraltar are the descendants of Italian and British immigrants. The fortress is strongly defended, and has also developed into an important naval base, a fine Admiralty Harbour and dockyard having been constructed within recent years. The bay, outside the Admiralty Harbour, provides a safe and commodious anchorage, and is used by ships of all nationalities, the port being famous as a coaling station.

Gibraltar is dependent on outside supplies for its existence. The inhabitants, numbering about 19,000, exclusive of the military forces, are engaged almost entirely on the shipping and coaling business and the supply of stores to ships.

Pride that Outdoes the Don's

The Spanish language is spoken, although all the Government-aided schools teach their pupils in English, which is the official language and is spoken by all the educated classes.

The temperament of the Gibraltarian is emotional, impulsive, and easily influenced by environment. Like the Spaniard, he is proud, indeed, even prouder than the Spaniard. He will starve himself rather than appear in shabby clothes or own to having accepted charity. The Gibraltarian woman is expert with the needle, and keeps herself and her house spotlessly clean, no matter how humble her surroundings; she will wear her fingers to the bone to provide neat and tidy clothes for her children, whose outward appearance is everything, for pride demands it.

The Spanish town of La Linea has sprung up just across the frontier, and supplies a large amount of Spanish labour for work in the dockyard and



THE LION THAT GUARDS THE GATE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Gibraltar town stumbles up the north-west steep of the Rock. Tarik's Keep still frowns over the huddled houses, but its strength is made ridiculous by the batteries of modern artillery above it, while the Power into whose hands it passed is symbolised by the Rock-Gun, famous in the great siege, that still stands on the summit of the mountain mass

in the coalheaving trade. For military reasons no person other than a native of Gibraltar or official in Government employment may enter or reside in Gibraltar without the Governor's permission; it is essential to keep the civil population within reasonable numbers, and the Spanish workmen who reside in La Linea are obliged to obtain a pass daily at the gates of the fortress before they are allowed to enter. A number of British Indians have set up shops in the town, having obtained temporary permits of residence, and they do a brisk business in silks, curios, etc., with the passengers of ships which call at the port to coal.

The Roman Catholic religion prevails in Gibraltar, the number of persons of other Christian denominations being small, though there is a considerable

element of Jews professing the Hebrew faith. The love of the Gibraltarian for his native town is very marked. Emigration is unpopular, though some few of the inhabitants go each year to the Western Hemisphere to seek their fortune, either to the United States or to the Spanish-speaking states of South America. Many of the poorer classes have never travelled beyond the neighbouring Spanish towns; the richer classes take their holidays mostly in England, and many send their children to be educated there. The population of Gibraltar is a curiously cosmopolitan community, living entirely on its trade with the outside world but wedded to its beloved "Rock," proud of its history, proud of being an integral part of the British Empire, and happy in its southern environment and beautiful surroundings.



MALTESE GARB AND ENGLISH SPEECH ON VALLETTA'S STAIRWAYS

This, the Strada San Giovanni, is one of many streets of Valletta that ascend steeply from the harbour in flights of steps. With its broad stones trodden by sandalled monks and cloaked women, its projecting windows and high lights and deep shadows, it is utterly un-English in appearance and the advertisements and shop signs written in English look quite incongruous

Photo, R. L. Morgan

III. Malta and the Maltese

By Prof. J. L. Myres, M.A., D.Sc.

Writer on Mediterranean Geography and Archaeology

THE Maltese Islands have a historical and political importance out of all proportion to their size, owing to their geographical position and their possession of one of the best natural harbours in the Mediterranean. They lie about 60 miles south of Sicily, and 180 miles east of the nearest point of Tunis, on an extensive bank of soft tertiary limestones such as form much of the coastland of the Mediterranean and are still being deposited on its bed; and they have formed in the past a prominent feature of the broad natural causeway which this bank furnished, before its subsidence, between Sicily and North Africa, whereby plants, animals, and early types of man passed between north and south, as is shown by the fossil remains of elephant, rhinoceros, and other species long extinct even in Northern Africa, which are found in the caves with which the Maltese limestones are honeycombed.

Evidence of the earth's movements which broke down this causeway, leaving only these minute islands exposed, is the great fracture which crosses Malta diagonally along the steep face of the Bingenma Hills, dividing the island into a south-eastern plateau sloping gently to the north-east, and a low-lying northern region almost intersected by the deep bays of S. Paul and Melleha, and wholly separated from the steep-fronted and level-topped Gozo by the strait in which the third island, Comino, lies, along the line of similar faults parallel with the main fracture already mentioned.

Malta itself is about $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad; Gozo about $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles by $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The highest point in the Bingenma Hills is 726 feet above sea-level. There are good anchorages in the bays and the two Comino channels, but the rest of the coasts rise steeply from moderate depths, and are



PROUD OF HER "HOOD OF SHAME"

Hood and cloak in one, made invariably of black cloth gathered on to a frame held in the right hand. Tradition says that the Maltese women adopted the faldetta to hide their faces from their French conquerors

unencumbered by reefs, except the minute islet of Filfolà, about three miles off the south coast of Malta. At the south end there is a deep bay, Marsa Scirocco, and Gozo has a fishing cove.

But the importance of Malta depends not upon these minor facilities but on those half-drowned valleys which drain

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about one-third of the whole area of the island, and converge on the middle point of the north-east coast, forming a natural harbour unrivalled in these waters for security from storms, and for natural facilities for defence.

Here, between two main inlets, the Grand Harbour on the south, and Marsa Muscetto on the north, the steep-sided promontory called Sceberras, on which Valletta stands, runs out, a mile long, to St. Elmo's Point at the very entrance, and is prolonged seawards by the Monarch Shoal, on which stands the modern break-water. As the double mouth is hardly a mile in width, and the flanking promontories, Dragutto and Ricasoli, are steep-fronted likewise, access from the sea is easily controlled, and it was the resistance of St. Elmo's Fort that baffled the Turks in the great siege of 1565.

Into Marsa Muscetto descend three tributary valleys from the north, forming inner creeks of what is now the Quarantine Harbour, below the pleasant suburbs of Sliema, Lazzaretto, and Pietà. The Grand Harbour has no fewer than four such inlets, narrower and steeper-sided than those on the north, so that the promontories of St. Angelo and Senglea, between

them, repeat in miniature the fortress-profile of Valletta itself.

Indeed, it was on this side, behind St. Angelo, and overhanging the Arsenal creek, that the Knights of St. John made their first settlement, the Borgo Vecchio or Vittoriosa, St. Elmo serving at first only as an outpost to watch the harbour mouth, and the Sceberras ridge being unoccupied until after the great siege had proved its military value. Senglea Point, and the

high ground of Burmola, or Cospicua, south-west of the Arsenal creek, were occupied later by sister-cities of Borgo, and included in the eventual fortifications.

It was not, however, till a comparatively late period in the island's history that the advantages of the harbour site were appreciated. Malta has passed through five main phases of human occupation, and in three of them the centres of its activity have been elsewhere. The imposing ruins of prehistoric sanctuaries at Hagiar Kim, Mnajdra, and Hal-Tarxien, the still grander monument of Gigantea in Gozo, and the contemporary cave-shrine and ossuary at Hal-Saflieni, date from the Later Stone Age, and represent a late and special offshoot of an



LITTLE BLACK RIDING-HOOD

As other children love their "Red Riding-hood," despite its fearful associations with a wolf, so Maltese children love their black faldetta, despite its reminder of foreign ogres—and look as winsome in it as the child of the fable

Photo, Donald McLeish



POPULAR WARES: A SWEET STALL AT A COUNTRY FAIR

Women and girls of all classes and all ages wear the faldetta out of doors. Viewed from behind, youth thus cloaked is indistinguishable from age, unless perhaps by its more erect carriage, and the traveller's curiosity is constantly piqued as to what type of face a turning figure will disclose beneath the over-arching hood, what figure within the black, enveloping folds

Photo, P. Agius-Catania

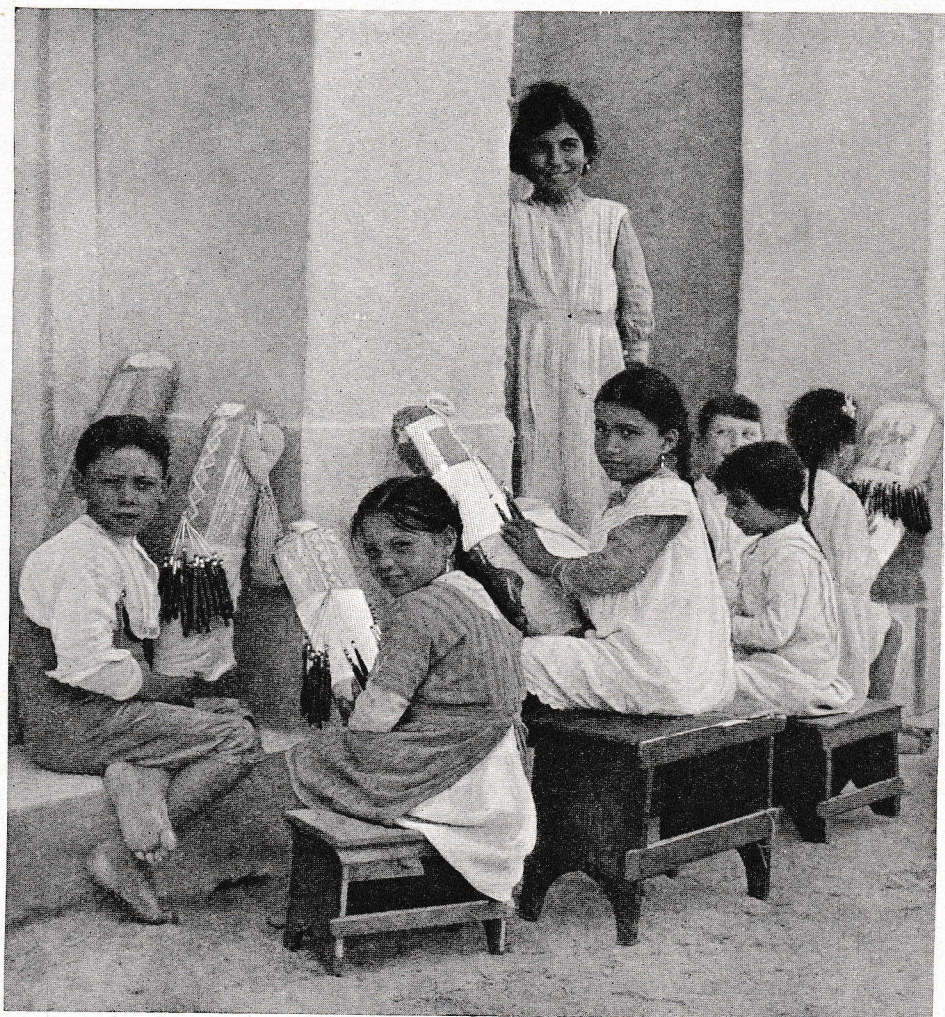
essentially West Mediterranean culture represented by the "Giants' Graves" of Sardinia, the megalithic monuments of Spain and Corsica, and cave-deposits and occasional ruder monuments in Sicily and South Italy. In Malta, such early settlements are widely distributed, and their remains indicate a large population, pastoral and agricultural, with considerable skill in pottery, sculpture, and architecture, and extensive intercourse.

These first occupants were of purely Mediterranean stock, and differ wholly from their successors, the Phoenician settlers of the Early Iron Age (1000-700 B.C.), from whom the later inhabitants seem to be mainly descended. Between the Stone Age culture and the Phoenician occupation lies a long interval of desolation, due, as the condition of the early ruins suggests, to prolonged drought and desert conditions, so that

the islands played no part in the Minoan civilization of the Bronze Age.

The principal Phoenician settlement seems to have been at Marsa Scirocco, though there are remains also elsewhere; and it lasted long after the surrender of the islands to the Romans in 218 B.C. at the outbreak of their second war with Carthage. Under Roman rule the islands, still essentially Phoenician in culture, were attached to the Sicilian province, but had their own municipal administration, and enjoyed considerable prosperity. The shipwreck of S. Paul off the bay which bears his name, on his journey from Caesarea to Rome, probably in A.D. 58, gives a momentary glimpse of a friendly people speaking an unfamiliar language, presumably a Phoenician dialect.

The traditional residence of "Publius, the chief of the island," was long shown



DAINTY WORK FOR LITTLE FINGERS: CHILDREN MAKING LACE

Malta has long been celebrated for its silk pillow-lace of black or white, or sometimes red threads, characteristic designs being circles, wheels, and wheat-ears. In the interior of the island nearly every household is thus employed, even the smallest children showing great skill in the craft. Maltese lace has notably influenced English lace design, and lace of Maltese type is made in Bedfordshire

Photo, Donald McLeish

at Notabile, on the higher edge of the plateau, which is proved by remains of Roman buildings to have been then the principal town, as it still was after the Saracen Conquest in A.D. 870, and under the Norman Count Roger of Sicily, who expelled the Saracens in 1090, and built his cathedral on the site of the "house of Publius." Neither these, nor the numerous later changes of overlord during the Middle Ages seriously disturbed the native population, which managed its own affairs under charters from successive conquerors.

But in 1530 the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who had withdrawn from their last foothold in the Holy Land in 1291, and had been expelled by the Turks in 1522 from their fortress in Rhodes, received from the Emperor Charles V. the grant of Malta, Gozo, and the African district of Tripoli, and established themselves first on the south side of the Grand Harbour, then, after the great siege of 1565, under Grand Master Jehan de la Vallette, in the "city built by gentlemen for gentlemen," which bears his name.



WEAVING FILMY THREADS OF LACE IN THE HOT SUNSHINE

Out of doors as well as in, Maltese women can be seen busy with their bobbins and pillows. In the country places they sit by the limestone walls that buttress up the terraced fields and are overhung by juicy cactus plants, and there ply their delicate craft surrounded by their numerous progeny

Photo, P. Agius-Catania

Planned on uniform rectangular street lines, irrespective of the contours of the promontory and ascending its steep sides by long flights of steps, and rapidly completed with numerous stately auberges or hostels for knights of different nationalities, and a central group of buildings, palace, arsenal, and cathedral, Valletta has had little need for change since its creation, and remains a masterpiece of civil and military architecture.

Its landward fortifications, largely rock-cut, and screened by an outer line of works enclosing the parade-ground and excavated granaries of Floriana, are unrivalled in this style, and have been but little damaged. For Napoleon obtained the surrender of Malta in 1798

by intrigue, and in the same winter a general insurrection of the Maltese had made the French position untenable before the British counter-attack developed. Other strong defences executed by the knights enclose Ricasoli—where Napoleon planned and partly built a conspicuous palace, now the Naval Hospital—and the Three Cities. Sliema and adjacent districts to the north of the Quarantine Harbour have only been developed into an open residential quarter during the nineteenth century.

Like most parts of the Mediterranean, Malta has a cool, moist winter, with an average temperature of 56° F. from December to February, and 13 inches of rain out of the annual total of 20 inches. Between May and September,



LIGHT AND SHADE IN OLD-WORLD BIRCHICARA

There is an air of indolence about the quiet street, with the nun-like women creeping along the shadows and the children gathered at the yawning door. The square, projecting windows are common in Maltese architecture, and the sculptured group on the corner plinth reminds one of the islanders' religious temperament and their devotion to the Roman Catholic faith

Photo, Donald McLeish

on the other hand, no rain falls, and the summer is warm and dry, with an average of 77° F. in August. Gales from the north-west and north-east are frequent, but are soon over; the moist southerly "sirocco" wind is oppressive while it lasts. The porous limestones, in such a climate, afford but scanty soil, and the natural vegetation consists of evergreen scrub and wild locust-trees, with a brilliant outbreak of flowering annuals

in spring, yielding much honey, and temporary pasture for sheep and goats.

For cultivation, the light dusty soil must be concentrated by terracing, protected against dry winds by high walls, and irrigated from wells, as there are no perennial streams. Harvest is in May and June, but the grain crops are quite insufficient to maintain the present population, and a large proportion of the land is devoted to potatoes,

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fodder crops, garden produce, and tree fruits such as oranges, pomegranates, figs, and grapes. Malta oranges are famous, and a principal export, with potatoes and other fruit and vegetables.

Cotton was grown formerly, but has been neglected since Egyptian cotton-growing increased. About seven-tenths of the land surface are cultivated, mostly in holdings of three or four acres. To economise the better land, dwellings are concentrated in large villages, on barren ground, and watered from rain tanks, deep wells, or the springs along outcrops of the blue clay which separates upper from lower limestones. From such springs, supplemented now by wells and pumping, the water for the capital is collected near the old capital Notabile,

and conveyed by an aqueduct eight miles long, constructed in 1610-15. Wine is made, but carelessly, and a good deal is imported from Sicily.

There are no mineral products, except limestone, and few industries. Weaving has lapsed since the neglect of local cotton; but lace and filigree silver are still made, mainly for export. There is fishing for tunny, mackerel, and sardines, and some fish is exported. Valletta has a fair number of sailing vessels engaged in small traffic with Mediterranean ports. But the large majority of the people are concentrated in the capital, and depend for their living on occupations subsidiary to the arsenal and garrison.

The picturesque costume formerly worn by Maltese men is now seldom



GOSSIPS LIKE HOODED CROWS FOREGATHERING IN THE SUNSHINE

This is a very characteristic view of the general planning and architecture of Valletta, the rectangular open space approached by flights of steps and flanked by right-lined, flat-roofed stone buildings. Incontrovertible identification of the spot as Maltese is furnished by the faldetta-enveloped women gathered round the central stone for a few minutes' rest and conversation.

Photo, H. B. Crook

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seen; it consisted of cotton shirt, full trousers held by a girdle, large waistcoat with ornamental buttons, a very short cloak and a coloured cap. The women, too, only wear their full costume for festivals—blue skirt, open at one side, over a white undergarment, a low-necked corset with sleeves, buckled shoes and hair dressed high above the forehead. But the black faldetta is still commonly worn by women of all classes out of doors. It is a loose cloak covering the whole figure, and gathered, as its name implies, into a stiff hood, which is worn on one side of the face as a screen against passers-by. The faldetta is said to have been of Sicilian or Spanish origin, and its use recalls a period when the women of Malta were secluded with almost Oriental strictness.

Since the British occupation the Maltese have quite outgrown their means of subsistence, and even the needs of the naval base. Many Maltese have therefore emigrated to find similar urban and maritime occupations in the larger ports of the Mediterranean. In Tunis, for example, there are over 10,000 of them. When employment is

slack, many go temporarily for work to the United States of America.

Both economically and politically, the Maltese population depends partly on the value (which is permanent) of the harbour as a port of call on the direct route between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans; partly on the naval base which protects British interests on this route. The risk that this traffic might be diverted from Malta as ships became larger has been partially met by the construction of a breakwater which makes the Grand Harbour itself, as well as its creeks, safe in all weathers.

The importance of the naval base necessarily varies with political and strategical considerations. During the nineteenth century, the unstable equilibrium of the Nearer East, as Turkish power failed, increased the naval responsibilities of Britain in the Mediterranean, and therewith the value of Malta as a garrison no less than a naval base, as is shown by its utility in the Crimean War, and during the Russo-Turkish crisis of 1878. But the redistribution of forces during the period of German naval menace reduced its significance, and it was only during



PROCESSION OF ECCLESIASTICS IN HONOUR OF THE VIRGIN

September 8th is annually observed in Malta as the anniversary of the final overthrow of the Turks in 1565. In 1921 a unique religious festival marked the event, when a statue of the Virgin Mary was borne through the streets by the Archbishop of Malta, bishops, clergy, and religious orders, to be crowned with a golden crown

Photo, T. J. Boulton



SOLEMN ACT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Mounting a tribune, which had been specially erected for the occasion, the Archbishop, supported by the bishops, solemnly imposed the crown upon the head of the statue. At the conclusion of this historic ceremony the statue was borne back to the church at Senglea, of which the Virgin Mary is the patron saint, never again to be brought out in procession

Photo, T. J. Boulton

the war of 1914-18 that submarine activity in the Mediterranean restored its naval value; while its central position and favourable climate made it a vast hospital and convalescent camp for British forces at Gallipoli, at Salonica, and in Palestine.

The abnormal relations between the native population and the naval and military masters of the island have at all times made administration difficult. Besides the main issues of constitutional government, and local taxation and expenditure, principal controversies

during the past century have been aroused by the languages—Maltese, Italian, or English—to be taught in schools, or recognized in the courts; by the mixed marriages, and other problems of incompatible codes of law; by attempts to simplify procedure, to co-ordinate the military and the civil police, to restrict the special temptations to crime which all fortress-cities offer, and to revise the composition and functions of the administrative staff.

Successive Constitutions, combining military administration of the fortress

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and arsenal with the legislature and judicature of a Crown Colony, have all developed defects which are perhaps inevitable, and the economic problem remains, underlying all, of a population of nearly half a million supplied with the necessities of life from abroad for nearly ten months of the year, and paying for those necessities with the proceeds of services rendered to a great naval station maintained for purposes which

are necessarily distinct from local needs and convenience.

Under the Constitution, as revised in 1920, the Governor, who is also commander-in-chief of the fortress, is responsible for all the Imperial affairs of the islands, and has the assistance of an Executive Council. Purely Maltese business is transacted by a Legislative Assembly, popularly elected, with a responsible Ministry.

IV. Cyprus: Greek & Turk as British Subjects

By Major C. W. J. Orr, C.M.G.

Author of "Cyprus under British Rule"

THE earliest authentic information concerning Cyprus recorded by history is its conquest by the Egyptians during the reign of Thothmes III. of the eighteenth dynasty (c. 1500 B.C.). After the Egyptian conquest, colonies were founded by Phoenician traders, who came to the island to work the copper deposits which soon became famous. Egyptian influence gradually waned, and was replaced by Phoenician, which in turn became overshadowed by Assyrian. During a period of many centuries, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, and Persians fought at intervals for supremacy in Cyprus, with varying success, but about 400 B.C. fresh competitors arose.

Settlers arrived from Greece and founded Greek colonies, and soon Cyprus became involved in the great struggle for mastery between Greece and the Phoenicians and their masters, the Persians.

Gem Set in Many Crowns

Finally, the victories of Alexander the Great put an end to Persian domination and Cyprus became a part of his vast dominions. On his death in 323 B.C., Cyprus fell to the share of one of his generals, but it was wrested from him by Ptolemy of Egypt, and remained in Egyptian hands until the first century B.C., when it became incorporated in the Roman Empire.

On the partition of the Roman Empire in A.D. 395, Cyprus was assigned

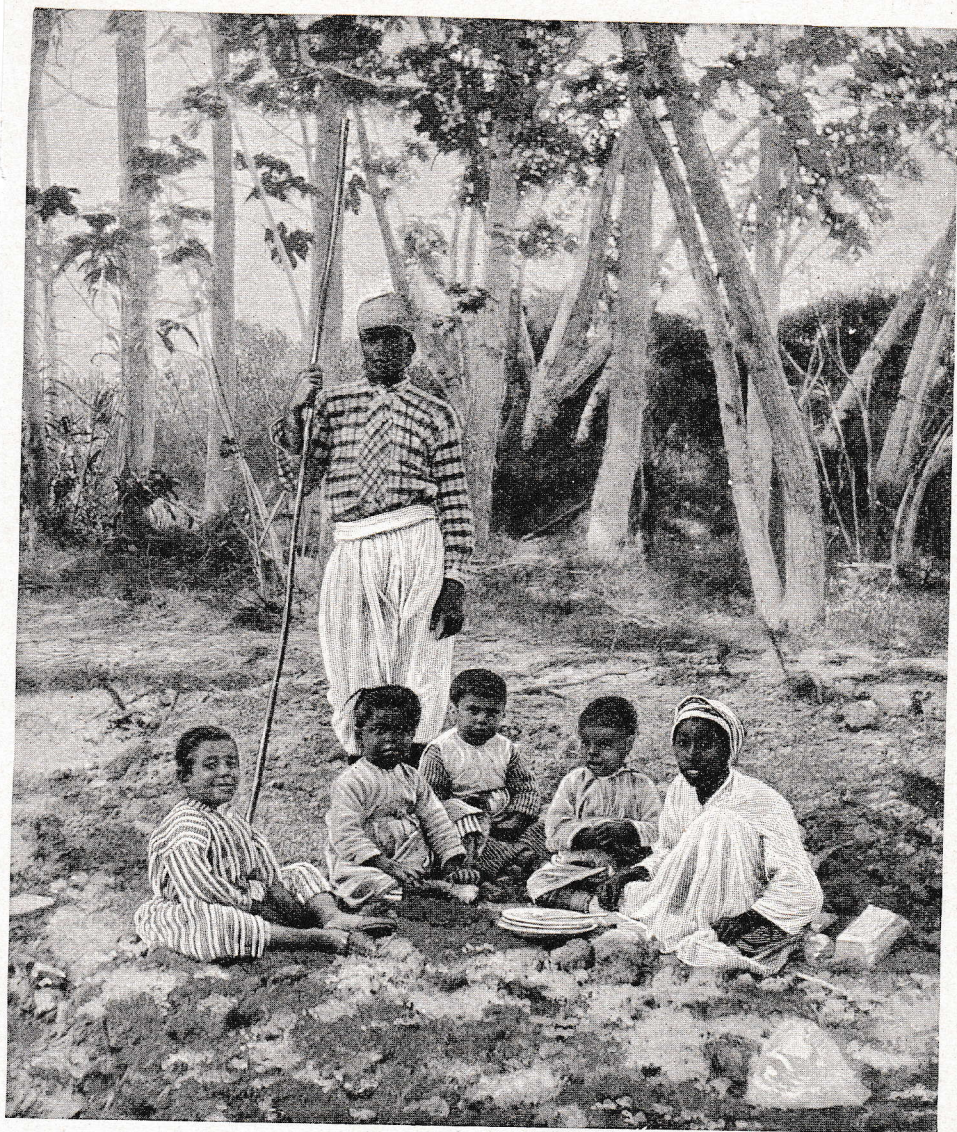
to the East Roman Emperor, and remained Byzantine until the twelfth century, when its then Governor, Isaac Comnenus, revolted and declared himself Emperor of Cyprus. Richard I. of England, however, passing by Cyprus on his way to the Crusades, and landing to avenge an insult, defeated this tyrant and handed over the island to the Norman Guy de Lusignan as compensation for the loss of the kingdom of Jerusalem.

Quarrels of Greek and Turk

The Lusignan dynasty reigned over Cyprus for 300 years, although the principal port, Famagusta, was wrested from them by the Genoese. The latter were succeeded by the Venetians, who obtained the mastery of the whole island.

In 1570 the Turks invaded Cyprus, defeated the Venetians, and established themselves in the island, since which date until recent times it formed part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1878 an agreement was concluded between the British Government and the Porte, whereby the administration of Cyprus was to be handed over to Great Britain in return for certain guarantees. The island was administered by Great Britain until the outbreak of war with the Ottoman Empire on November 5th, 1914, when it was annexed, and now forms part of the British Empire, being administered as a Crown Colony.

The Greek-speaking inhabitants, who outnumber the Turks by about four to



FIVE HAPPY YOUNG CYPRIOTS WHO APPROVE OF THE TOURIST

Visitors to the famous salt lakes near Larnaka are highly approved by the native children, who often come by delicious morsels from the picnic baskets. This gratification has just befallen these five young Turks, whose gradation of skin colouring well exemplifies the mixture of black and white strain in the Cypriot, dating from days when African slaves were imported into the island

Photo, George A. Williamson

one, claim to be of Greek nationality and have perpetually urged that the island should be united to Greece, which they look upon as their Mother Country. Ethnologically, their claim to Greek nationality is open to question, but they are undoubtedly Greek in language, custom, character, and tradition. The Turkish inhabitants have preserved intact their language, customs, and religion, and the two races are for

historic reasons bitterly antagonistic. Under forty years of British administration this innate hostility has remained latent, but it is ever ready to burst into flame, all the more so since the Greek nature is excitable and passionate. The easy-going, slower-witted Turk is far less emotional, but once roused is apt to give vent to ruthless fury, which can only be assuaged by blood. Shortly after the British Government undertook

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the administration of Cyprus a liberal Constitution was granted to the island, and Legislative and Executive Councils were set up. The Legislative Council, over which the High Commissioner presides, consists of eighteen members, six of whom are Government officials and the remaining twelve elected by the people on a broad franchise, each of the three districts into which the island is divided for the purpose electing three Christian and one Moslem deputy. Debates are carried out in the three languages—English, Turkish, and Greek—each member speaking in his own tongue, the official interpreters translating into the other two languages. The proceedings of the Council are, therefore,

somewhat protracted, and the preponderance of elected over Government members might in any other country render administration difficult, but the elected Turkish members seldom see eye to eye with their Christian colleagues, and usually take sides against them. Thus the Government policy generally holds the field. On the whole, the Legislative Council has worked well, and has formed a useful means of allowing the inhabitants to express their views and influence legislation.

The island is almost entirely agricultural and sylvan. The once famous copper mines have been almost entirely worked out by the Phoenicians and Romans, though a large amount of low grade ore with by-products of some value still remains and can

be worked on a large scale at a profit. There are also large deposits of asbestos, and a few other minerals have been worked. The main product of the island, however, is its carob beans, which are exported in large quantities to Europe for use in the preparation of cattle food. Wheat and barley are grown in the plains, and vine cultivation is carried on to a large extent in the hilly districts, while fruit and vegetables are increasingly grown and find a ready market in Egypt. Timber exists in large quantities in the pine-clad mountains, but its commercial development is rendered difficult by the scantiness of forest roads. There is some horse-breeding in the island, and flocks of sheep and goats roam the countryside, picking up what nourishment they can from the scanty vegetation. The climate is similar to that of Syria



SLIPPERED EASE UPON A PATIENT ASS

Pottering thus round his land, this bare-legged, full-breeched Turkish farmer seems a benevolent old gentleman. But there is a cruel side to his nature, and he hates his Greek neighbour. represented on the opposite page

Photo, Major A. S. Mearns

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and the Southern Mediterranean. Rain falls at intervals from October to May, but the rest of the year is rainless, and in the summer months very hot except in the hills, where almost ideal conditions prevail. In the winter the mountains are covered with snow, but in the plains the thermometer seldom falls to freezing point.

Turks and Greeks, in the rural districts, live apart from one another, each village being composed of either one or the other. In the towns, the two races live in separate quarters and are represented on the town councils proportionately to their numbers. Village administration is based on an excellent system, which has probably prevailed in something like its present form for centuries. Each village has its head-man, called by the old Turkish title of Mukhtar, who is assisted by a council of elders, called Azas. In Turkish times the Mukhtar was appointed to his post by the Government, but after the British occupation, owing to the passion of the Greek-speaking population for democratic institutions, a law was passed providing for the election of this functionary by the villagers. Elections take place every alternate year and are often the cause of much strife, bad blood, and intrigue in the villages.

Many duties and responsibilities devolve on the Mukhtar and his Council, connected both with the prevention and detection of crime and the assessment and collection of taxes, and an unscrupulous or dishonest man has many opportunities for mischief. Although the Governor has the power by law of



SHOULDER THE TOOLS YOU CAN HANDLE

Greek-Cypriot farmers take no interest in modern agricultural implements. Their plough is an iron spike attached to a wooden handle, quite easily shouldered when the season comes round to scratch mother earth with it once more

Photo, Major A. S. Meek

dismissing a Mukhtar for misconduct, there is nothing to prevent the same man being re-elected by his party if in the majority, nor are the qualifications for the post of an exacting description. There is a further element of trouble in the village communities, namely, the election by the inhabitants of "field watchmen"—a kind of rural police—and the assessment by the villagers of their wages. Theoretically, the custom has much to recommend it besides its antiquity; but, in practice, it is the cause of much intrigue and jealousy, and the field watchmen frequently require as much watching as the property they are supposed to guard. Another cause of friction in the villages is



PACK CAMELS BRINGING FORAGE TO MARKET IN CYPRUS

Owing to shortage of green food, cattle in Cyprus are fed most of the year on dry food with chopped straw as a basis. It is packed in sacks, brought in by camels—here used only for pack purposes—and sold by the load

Photo, George A. Williamson

the perennial enmity between the shepherds and the farmers. No walls, hedges or fences exist in the rural districts of Cyprus, and there are few tangible or visible boundaries to the fields or orchards. The flocks of the shepherds, driven hither and thither in search of pasture, are apt therefore to trespass on the farmers' lands and damage the crops and trees, and a constant feud between the flock owners and the agriculturists is almost inevitable.

A military police force, under the command of British officers, recruited from both Moslem and Christian inhabitants, keeps order efficiently in the towns and has small detachments in the districts, which supply mounted patrols and orderlies. This admirable force constitutes the machinery for maintaining law and order throughout the island, the only military force being a small detachment of British troops, furnished from the army in Egypt.

An excellent law exists in Cyprus, by which every able bodied adult male in each village is obliged to give a certain number of days' labour every year on roads and public works within the

boundaries of his village. By this means a great deal has been done at very small expense towards improving village water supplies and sanitation. The main roads throughout the island are constructed and maintained by the Government, but the subsidiary roads and tracks are to a great extent made and kept in repair by the villagers themselves. Three centuries of Turkish rule effectually prevented any progress being made by the population of Cyprus, which was mercilessly taxed for the benefit of its Ottoman masters at Constantinople, and when British administration was introduced in 1878 the island was in a very backward state. Even now the peasants use the most primitive implements and methods in their agriculture, and adhere to them tenaciously. The plough in use—an iron spike attached to a rough wooden handle—is practically identical with that used by the ancient Egyptians; harvesting is carried out by hand sickles; the corn is threshed on open floors by driving over it a couple of rough boards, studded with flints; it is winnowed in the evening breeze, and the grain stacked in heaps in the open, ready

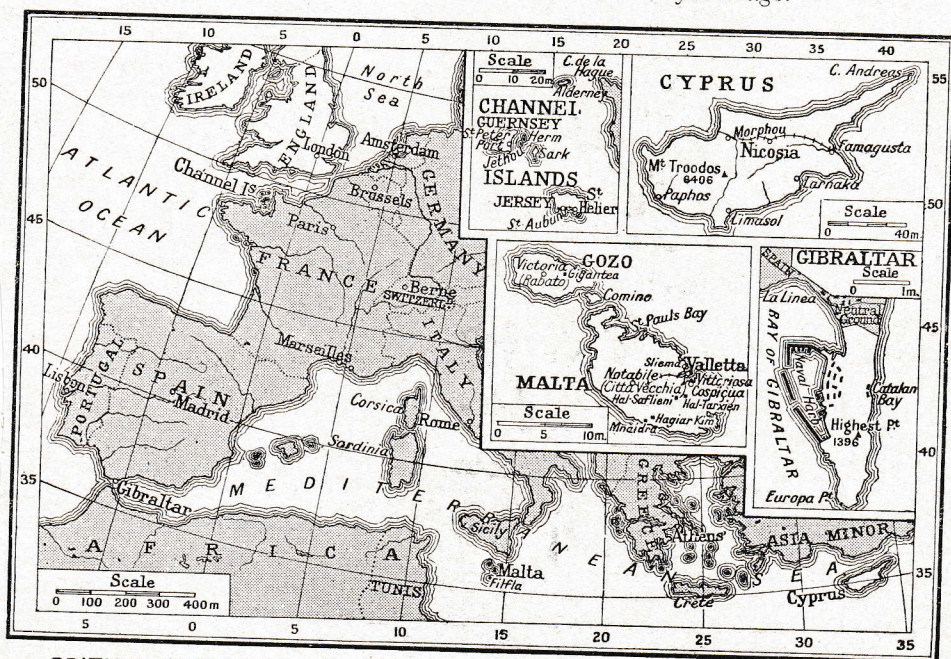
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for the Government tax collector to come and measure and claim the tithe. The peasant wears the same picturesque costume that he has worn for centuries; the Greek, a white shirt, baggy black breeches, and wide straw hat; the Turk, bright coloured shirt, white baggy breeches, ornamental stockings, and scarlet fez.

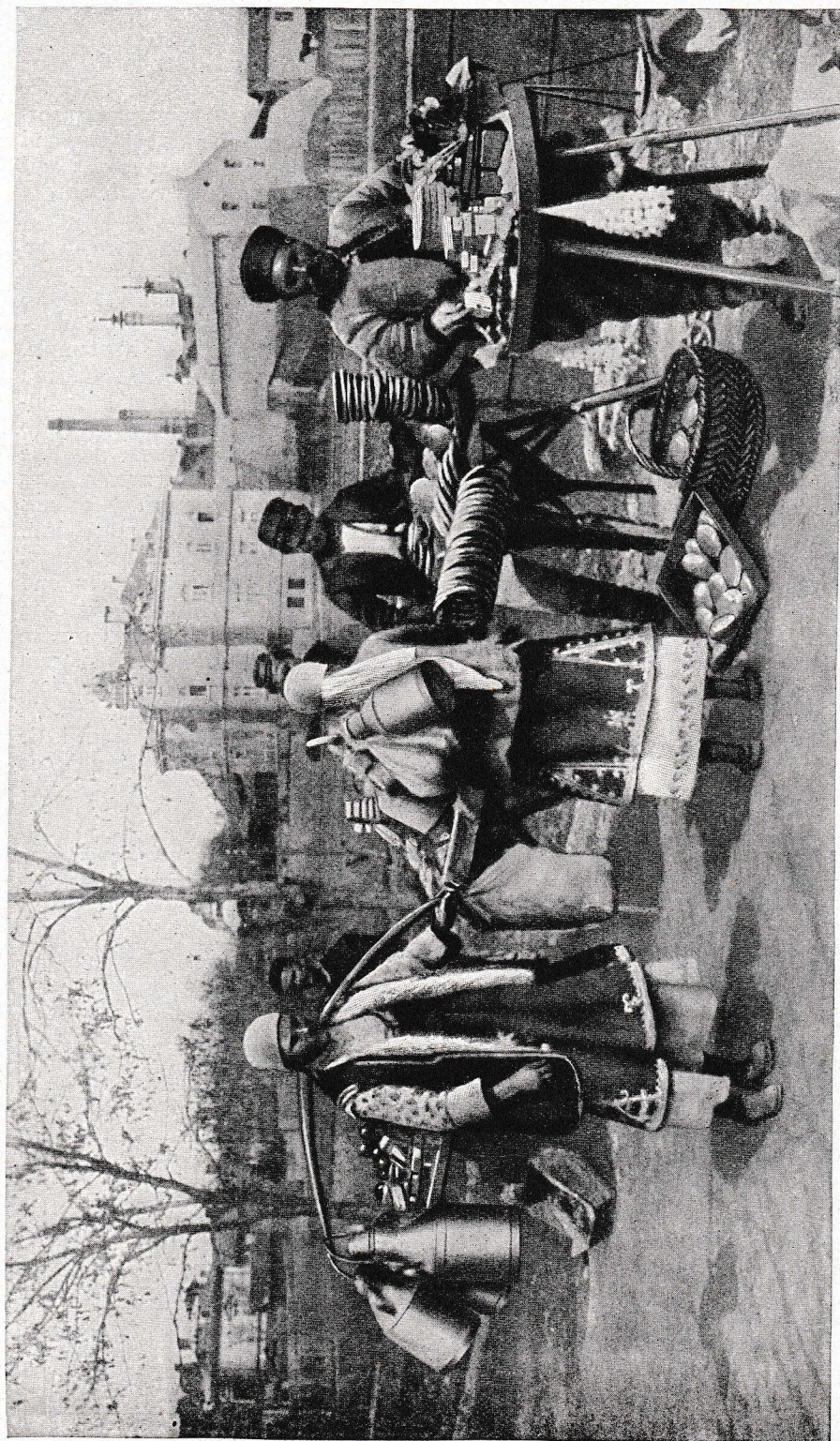
In the towns there are now a number of Cypriots who have graduated at the universities of Athens, Paris, and elsewhere in Europe, and who practise the professions of law, medicine, and other learned sciences. The Greek-speaking population shows great enthusiasm for education, and there is an elementary school in almost every village throughout the island. In the rural districts, however, the peasant still retains to a large extent his primitive character and qualities and resists change. The crime passionnel is by no means uncommon, and murders take place from time to time, which turn out to be a form of village execution, the murderer being hired at a small price by the villagers to get rid of a bad character. The Greek-speaking peasant observes with great devotion the formalities of his

religion, and Greek Easter is the time when village life is seen at its best. With the villager, however, superstition is mingled with his religion, and it is difficult to say how much ancient mythology has not survived among his rites and ceremonies.

The soil of Cyprus is redolent of ancient and legendary times. It was from the waves that beat on the shores of Paphos that laughter-loving Aphrodite sprang, and there stood her temple. Gods and goddesses had their shrines in sacred spots, many of them now unknown and unrecognized. Two thousand years ago Cyprus was the centre of civilization, but now it lives chiefly in the past, though it retains much of its old beauty and charm. Since the British occupation, railways, motor services, modern harbours and anchorages, and electric light have been introduced, and a weekly mail service with Egypt—eighteen hours steam away—links it with modern civilization. But the peasant still retains his old simplicity, and village life varies little from what it must have been when S. Paul visited the island nearly nineteen hundred years ago.



BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN EUROPE OUTSIDE OF THE BRITISH ISLES



BULGARIAN MILK-WOMEN BARGAINING WITH WAYSIDE PEDLARS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SOFIA

Fancy goods, jewellery, cakes, and sweetmeats appear to grow wild along the main road into Sofia, for, despite the many customers, the small mobile stalls of the hawkers are ever overlaid with objects likely to incite covetous feelings in the hearts of the passers-by; and these farmers' wives, having successfully disposed